

oceans of debris, NMFS offers information to schools, marine parks, organizations, and individuals who want to learn what they can do to help the recovery of this species. NMFS also sets up signs on beaches where monk seals are most likely to breed or visit informing visitors how to avoid disturbing the sea animals.

Fortunately, the agency is supported by other organizations that have fostered efforts for the recovery of this unique and beautiful species. These include: the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, which assists and supports NMFS's recovery efforts; Earthtrust and the Hawaii Wildlife Fund, which promote awareness of and education about the Hawaiian monk seal; Sea Life Park Hawaii, which has in the past offered rehabilitation for monk seal pups; and Dolphin Quest, which financially supports monk seal recovery efforts.

In addition to these organized efforts to save the monk seal, I should recognize the conservation conscious beachgoers, fishermen, and other individuals, who go out of their way to ensure that their activities do not disturb or harm Hawaiian monk seals or other marine life. By simply picking up trash before they leave the beach, beachgoers can do much to promote the survival of the Hawaiian monk seal. Fishermen can also help by being aware of where they fish and making sure that they do not cast their lines in an area where Hawaiian monk seals may inhabit and accidentally bite onto a baited hook. It is also important to make sure that fishing lines and nets are not left in the ocean for a monk seal to swallow or become entangled in. Thus, conscientious citizens can do much to perpetuate the existence of this special creature.

Mr. President, the Hawaiian monk seal is one of Hawaii's biological treasures. Through the combined efforts of government agencies, community organizations, and ordinary citizens, we may one day witness the full recovery of the Hawaiian monk seal. It is my hope that through the education and preservation of this rare species, more people will learn to respect and value all marine life and, by extension, understand our own relationship to our living environment.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. TERESA OF THE LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC CHURCH ON ITS APPROACHING FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Reno, Nevada's Little Flower Catholic Church, which will soon be marking its fiftieth anniversary. This amazing church has truly been a blessing for the people of northern Nevada, as it has become a pillar of strength, inspiration, and hope for the thousands who have passed through its doors.

Little Flower has truly blossomed since its first mass was celebrated on

October 17, 1948. Senator Patrick McCarran, Representative Walter Baring and area religious leaders of all denominations were just a few of those who filled the church's 200 seats on that special day. But the time Father Robert Bowling became pastor in 1974, facilities has expanded and the parish had grown to several hundred people. And, during the following year, the parish actually doubled in size. Today, under Father Bowling's continued stewardship, the church ministers to almost four thousand families, reflecting an extraordinary increase—particularly over the last twenty-five years. Moreover, each month, a Little Flower worship service is taped and later aired on local television for the benefit of those who would like to attend mass but are too infirm to do so.

In celebrating this anniversary, I am reminded of the well-known biblical passage that refers to our duty as our brother's keeper. This message is clearly not lost on the Little Flower congregation. While the church is by no means what one would consider wealthy, its parishioners' generosity is boundless. In addition to monthly donations to St. Vincent's shelter, the Little Flower distributes food vouchers to the hungry on a daily basis. A local supermarket honors the certificates and then bills the church at the end of each month. Likewise, gas vouchers are provided to stranded motorists. Bus fare is available for runaways looking to return home and for others caught in similarly difficult straits. Even money for medicine is given to the uninsured poor. Little Flower's policy holds that nobody in need is turned away, and no questions are ever asked.

Yet, Little Flower Catholic Church is not just about worship and charity; it's also a garden of personal and community development. The church operates a school that enrolls three hundred youngsters, providing top-notch religious and academic instruction. In addition, the church sponsors countless organizations such as a Mom's Group, Altar Society, Knights of Columbus, as well as Filipino, Hispanic, and youth-centered choirs. Of course, standard Marriage, Baptism and Sunday school classes are also included in the Little Flower's crowded slate of activities. Sometime I think that if a book could be written about the church's history, it may well be called the Little Flower That Could.

Father Omar, one of the parish priests, is a more recent example of Little Flower's devotion to its parishioners. Born in Colombia, with a heart big enough to fill the world, Father Omar today sets the standard for spirituality and community activism. He is truly a man for others.

Hanging over the entrance of the church chapel is a sign declaring that "love is spoken here." Indeed, it's a language the folks at Little Flower Catholic Church have clearly mastered. The church has embraced newcomers, comforted and cheered the down-

trodden, and is one of those special places that brings out the best in all of us. While its history is grand, Little Flower Catholic Church's future promises to be equally as rosy. Congratulations on the approaching fiftieth anniversary to Reno Bishop Phillip Straling, Father Bowling, the church's chapter members, and all of the parishioners that have made it such a sanctuary of unconditional love.●

CATHERINE KENNEDY

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, our nation's struggle against the AIDS virus has been a difficult one. More and more Americans are beginning to learn the facts about this disease that has become the leading killer of U.S. adults between the ages of 25 and 44. And in recent years, we have finally begun to devote significant resources toward quality treatment and the search for a cure. But as my colleagues know, for many years, attention to the disease was severely lacking, and only a handful of people in this country were actively working for better treatment of its victims. I am proud to say that one of the true heroes and pioneers in the fight against AIDS hails from Connecticut: Catherine Kennedy of New Haven. Sadly, Mrs. Kennedy recently died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 51.

Catherine Kennedy was active on many fronts in the fight against AIDS, but she is best known for her efforts to establish Connecticut's first nursing home for people afflicted with this disease.

A native of England, Catherine Kennedy moved to New Haven in 1983. Shortly after moving to Connecticut, she noticed the lack of nursing centers and services for people in the area living with AIDS. She saw nursing homes that were refusing care to many individuals. Patients were being kept, at enormous expense, at hospitals that were essentially unequipped to treat them. And other patients were in fact homeless.

Catherine Kennedy took it upon herself to create a nursing home designed specifically to treat persons living with HIV/AIDS who were too sick to stay at home but too healthy to need hospital care. Her efforts were met with great resistance along the way.

But she eventually gained the help of Lucie McKinney, the widow of U.S. Representative Stewart McKinney, who had died of AIDS. Together they were able to convince the Governor and state legislature to support the idea of a treatment center, and a law was passed which provided funding to cover non-hospital care costs for AIDS patients and to convert an old factory in New Haven into a nursing home. She was also able to secure a grant from Yale-New Haven Hospital to help finance the home.

In 1995, eight years after Catherine Kennedy began her efforts to establish this center, Leeway, Inc. opened its